



Indoor Air Sampling Results Available

Evergreen Manor Site
Roscoe, Illinois

February 2003

Availability Session

EPA representatives will be available to discuss one-on-one with area residents, the results of the indoor air and soil samples taken in May 2002 at an availability session.

Date: Feb. 18, 2003

Time: 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Place: Roscoe Branch
Library
5562 Clayton Circle
Roscoe, Ill.

Public Meeting

EPA will explain the results of the indoor air and soil samples taken in May 2002 at a public meeting.

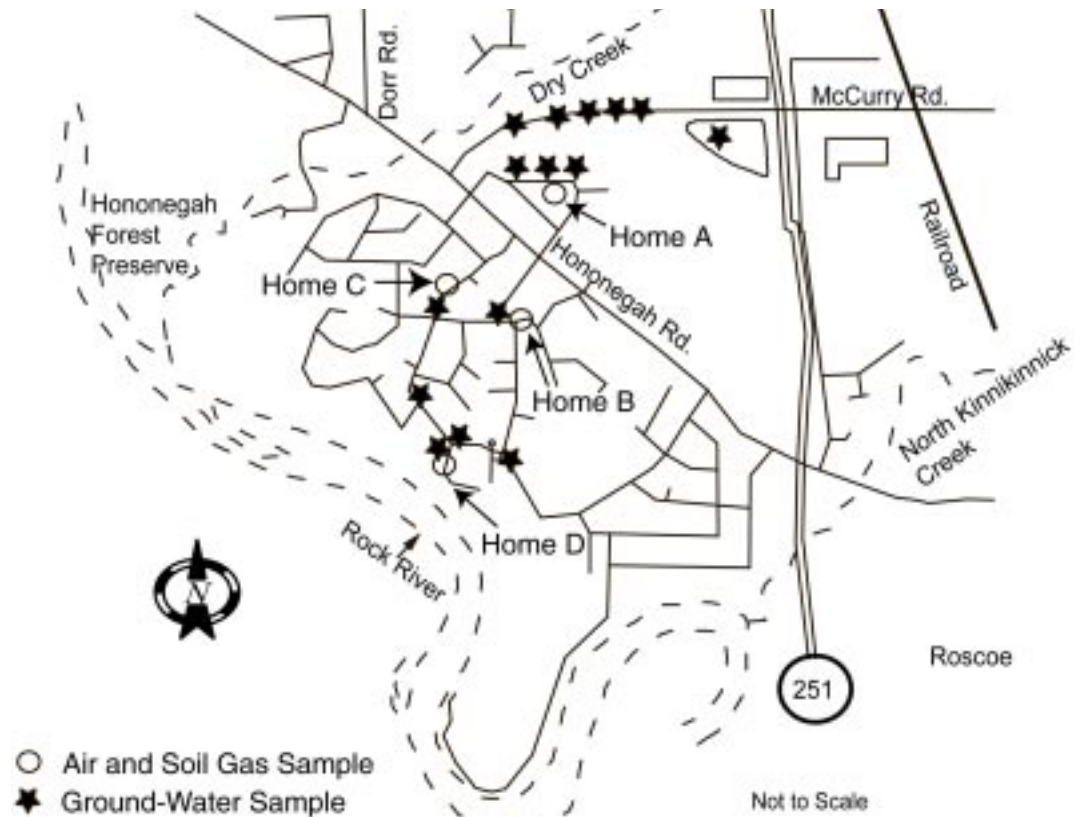
Date: Feb. 18, 2003

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Roscoe Middle
School Gym
6121 Elevator Rd.
Roscoe, Ill.

For special needs or accommodations, please contact: Janet Pope at (312) 353-0628, or toll free at (800) 621-8431 Ext. 30628.

Sampling Locations Map



Results are in on tests done in May 2002 at homes near the Evergreen Manor site. Those tests show some chemicals from the site may be getting into area homes, but at levels so low that EPA would not consider them dangerous.

The tests on indoor air and soil around the homes were done to see if contamination in the ground water is moving into the soil and then into the air in area homes. The four homes tested were chosen because they are in the area where the ground water is contaminated and because some ground-water samples were taken nearby. (See Homes A-D on the "Sampling Locations Map" above.)

More testing must be done, however. Air and soil samples were taken at only four homes and many factors can affect the results. EPA also needs to collect more ground-water samples to see if some of the chemicals detected in the homes are really coming from the ground water. This additional testing will most likely be done later this year or early in 2004, after EPA has approached those responsible for the contamination about paying for the work.

Contaminants Found

PCE and TCE The tests showed PCE and TCE, short for tetrachloroethene and trichloroethylene at the homes. Because these chemicals were found in ground water across the site and found in soil samples, EPA believes that the TCE and PCE at these homes is site-related. However, at some of the homes, higher levels of PCE inside the homes indicates that some of the PCE may also be coming from household sources such as dry-cleaning, work clothes or other household products containing PCE.

Benzene, Ethyl benzene and Methylene chloride

Benzene, ethyl benzene and methylene chloride were also found at the homes. Higher levels of these chemicals found inside some of the homes indicates that most of these chemicals in those homes are coming from gas cans, parking in attached garages, and paint strippers and other household products containing these chemicals stored in basements. However, because these chemicals were also found in the soil and have been detected in ground water at one or two locations outside the residential area, EPA cannot rule out the possibility that low levels of these chemicals could also be coming from the site.

Chloroform The sampling results showed chloroform, which is most likely coming from chlorine laundry and cleaning products used in the home. Chloroform is also found in most public water supplies as a by-product of chlorination and has been found in the Roscoe water supply. Wastewater containing chlorine and chlorine by-products can get

EPA's Acceptable Risk Range

EPA has set guidelines to measure the seriousness of a site's health risk. Here's one general rule of thumb: The risk is unacceptable when contamination could cause more than one case of cancer than would normally be expected for every 10,000 people exposed. In this case, EPA would require action to remove the added risk. There are also guidelines to assess other health-related risks.

Test results on the Evergreen Manor site homes put the site-related contaminant levels within EPA's acceptable range, so no action is needed at this time. But when household chemicals are considered, the health risk moves into the unacceptable range.

If your home is in this area, please read "Reducing Chemicals in Your Indoor Air," on Page 3. It explains steps you can take to reduce the level of household chemicals that might affect your family's health.

into the ground through septic systems. Because EPA only found chloroform in the ground water at one location in the residential area and not in any other site areas, EPA does not believe that the chloroform is site-related.

Making a Link to the Ground Water

EPA officials looked for a relationship between these tests and previous tests on ground-water samples. If the tests found the same chemical in the ground water,

Many factors can affect test results, such as:

- Home insulation. In most cases, a "drafty" house is not a good thing. But fresh air can dilute indoor air contamination. More well-insulated homes don't let in enough fresh air.
- Attached garage. Benzene and other chemicals can get into a home with an attached garage. The sources are cars, gas cans and other petroleum products stored there.
- Household products. Many polishes, cleaners and lubricants contain chemicals that can get into indoor air. Paint and paint thinner can do the same if stored inside the house.
- Time of the sampling. Concentrations may be higher in the winter when the home is more tightly sealed, and lower in warmer weather when windows and doors may be open.

soil and indoor air samples, it might indicate a link. If contaminant levels in the soil were higher than inside the house, officials could show that the chemical is moving from the ground water, through the soil, into the home.

While test results showed some evidence of this natural progression, there is not enough information to confirm that all of the chemicals found in the homes are site related.

Most Conservative Estimates Used

EPA used the most conservative estimates. In estimating potential risk, EPA assumed that an individual would be living in the home for 30 years breathing the same level of contaminated air every day.

The Next Step

EPA will propose the additional air and soil sampling in an upcoming document called a proposed plan. EPA's proposal will include ground-water sampling and air and soil sampling at more homes at different times of the year. EPA will send residents a copy of its proposal and ask them to comment on it before EPA makes a final decision. EPA hopes to be sending out its proposed plan for the site in April or May 2003.

Information Repository

An information repository is a file for public review containing documents related to the project and the Superfund program. The Evergreen Manor information repository is located in the reference section of the:

Roscoe Branch Library
5562 Clayton Circle
Roscoe, Ill.

(815) 623-6266

Library hours:

Monday through Thursday - 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday and Saturday - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Closed on Sunday

Warner Electric Site Update

Air sampling activities are also being planned in the nearby Hononegah Country Estates subdivision to evaluate whether contaminants from the Warner Electric ground-water contamination are also getting into homes. In December 2002 Warner Electric did additional ground-water sampling in the subdivision to get a better idea of current ground-water conditions and, based on the results, will be selecting several homes in the subdivision for air testing. The sampling is planned for February or March. An EPA representative will be at the Feb. 18 public availability session and meeting to update the community about the ongoing activities for the Warner Electric site. For additional information, please contact Chris Black of EPA at (312) 886-1451 or (800) 621-8431, Ext. 61451.

Reducing Chemicals in Your Indoor Air

People can take the following precautions to limit the amount of household-related indoor air pollution in their home:

- Use chemicals such as paints, paint thinners, strippers in a well-ventilated area specifically with ventilation to the outside of the home.
- Store these chemicals in a building that is not attached to the home.
- Dispose of these chemicals and their containers at an approved hazardous waste disposal facility.
- Make sure that the door leading to an attached garage is tightly sealed.
- Let your car cool off in the driveway before pulling it into an attached garage.
- Leave the door of an attached garage open for a few minutes after pulling a car in to allow the exhaust in the garage to air out.
- Do not back into an attached garage.
- If you must smoke, do not smoke inside your home or garage.

For More Information

For more information about the Evergreen Manor site, please contact:

Janet Pope

Community Involvement Coordinator
Office of Public Affairs (P-19J)
EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590
Phone: (312) 353-0628 or
(800) 621-8431 Ext. 30628
Fax: (312) 353-1155
E-mail: pope.janet@epa.gov

Karen Cibulskis

Remedial Project Manager
Superfund Division (SR-6J)
EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590
Phone: (312) 886-1843 or
(800) 621-8431 Ext. 61843
Fax: (312) 886-4071
E-mail: cibulskis.karen@epa.gov

EPA Web Site

This and future fact sheets and other site documents
can be found on the following EPA Web site:

www.epa.gov/region5/sites

Click on Illinois and scroll through the list to find
Evergreen Manor.

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